have apparently been taken in the area referred to by me with the result hat there has been a heavy toll of lives. So, will the Hon. Minister tell us whether any action has been taken in that area?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: Unfortunately occurrence of smallpox is a normal feature in our country. That is why we want to eradicate this disease from our country by launching this National Eradication Programme. Now a pilot scheme will operate in the Chingleput district and we hope that within about three years we will be able to eradicate this disease because it is mainly a question of vaccination and revaccination. If that is done to the whole population, the disease can be eradicated.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: May I know why the Government have failed to eradicate the disease once for all from our State in the last twelve years since we attained Independence?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: It is a big problem. The hon. Member should thank himself that the Government are now coming forward to eradicate it within a short period.

SRI S. NAGARAJA MONIGAR: Granting that mass vaccination will be done and completed within three years, may I know whether it will be effective for the life-time of a person or whether it will be necessary for him to get revaccinated in the intervening period to eradicate this disease?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: We hope that by this programme we will be able to see that the disease is wiped out.

SRI P. G. MANICKAM: ஸார், பெரியம்மையைத் தவிர்ப்பதற்கு, மூன்று வருடத்திற்குள்ளாகவே இதை அறவே போக்கடிப்பதற்காக திட்டம் வகுக்கப்பட்டிருப்பதாக அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தெரிவித்தார்கள். அதில், அம்மை குத்துவது மூலமாகத்தான் இதை ஒழிக்கப்படுமா, அல்லது டாக்டர்கள் மூலமாக வைத்தியம் செய்து ஒழிக்கப்படுமா என்கிற விபரங்களை அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: டாக்டர் மூலமாக ஒழிப்பது என்பது, இந்த நோய் வந்த பின்னால், டாக்டர்களைக் கொண்டுவந்து சிகிச்சை நடத்தலாம். ஆனால் இந்தத் திட்டம், முற்றிலும் இந்த நோயையே தடுக்கவேண்டும் என்பதற்காகத்தான் போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

Pearl fishery

* 791 Q.—SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI (on behalf of SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the amount realized by way of pearl fishing in the year 1958–59; and

(b) for how many more years, this operation is expected to be continued?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: (a) A net revenue of Rs. 4,18,151 was realized.

(b) The continuance of pearl fishery operations in the future years will depend upon the results of the Departmental Survey, which is conducted annually to assess the availability of matured oysters,

22nd April 1960]

with good pearls, in abundance. Therefore, it is not possible to say for how many more years the pearl fishery operation can be expected to be continued.

Sri S. NAGARAJA MONIGAR: May I know whether the operations are carried out by the Government direct or through any agency? Also, will the Government consider the necessity of forming a Board for it?

The Hon. Srimathi LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: The Government are conducting pearl fisheries and there is no other agency.

Pearl and chanks

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions Nos. 792 and 793 may be taken up together.

*792 Q.—Sri T. S. RAMASWAMI (on behalf of Sri K. SATTANATHA KARAYAR): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether any concession is shown to Bengal Purchasers in their purchase of pearl and chanks; and

(b) if so, the basis and the manner of concession shown?

The Hon. Srimathi LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: (a) & (b) The Government of West Bengal purchase only chanks for distribution to their artisans. With the main idea to help the artisans who are mostly repatriates from East Pakistan and also to create a demand for our chanks in West Bengal, this Government supplied chanks by direct negotiations to the Government of West Bengal. Only on two occasions, this Government supplied chanks at a price less than the price at which chanks were purchased by the private merchants.

793 Q.—Sri T. S. RAMASWAMI (on behalf of Sri K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation was made by our Government to the Central Government to stop the import of chanks from Ceylon; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

The Hon. Srimathi LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reply from the Government of India is still awaited.

Sri S. NAGARAJA MONIGAR: Sir, if cheap quality pearls and chanks are available, will concessions be shown to our own people of the land, namely, gypsy tribes who are called 'Kuruvikkarargal' etc., so that we can elevate their lives?

The Hon. Srimathi LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: I should like to say that chanks and pearls are of different nature. We have got different contracts for these. Prices also are quite different. In the case of pearls, it is only speculation as to what they get in the system. As for chanks, they have to be measured according to their size and quality. They are sold in different places at different rates. At some places chanks are of better value and better quality. At some coastal places, they are not of such good quality. Chanks are